

interesting contribution to a subject in which an intense interest is now developing. The rapid changes which are taking place in the recruitment and training of entrants for the probation service might have justified a fuller account than is provided by Mr. W. G. Minn, but the presentation of the subject is a timely one.

The legal situation presented by the necessity for doing something about the enormous number of collaborators arrested after the liberation of European countries is reviewed by Professor J. M. van Bemmelen of the State University of Leyden, and gives us a glimpse of a problem from which we have been fortunately spared. The situation has something of the quality of unreality and detachment from familiar legal procedure which one could not help feeling at the Nuremberg trials.

The editors have perhaps been wise not to undertake to publish their *Journal* at regular intervals, as they may find it hard to maintain the high standard of general interest of their first number. The *Journal* is deserving of a wide circulation, and we will watch its development with interest.

ALEXANDER KENNEDY.

MARRIAGE GUIDANCE

Fishbein, Morris, and Burgess, Ernest W. (Editors). *Successful Marriage*. New York, 1947. Doubleday. Pp. xxi + 547. Price \$6.00.

THOSE who are familiar with the tempo of life in the United States are at a loss to know how Americans find time to read the thousands of huge books which issue forth annually from the printing presses of their great publishing houses. In the field of marriage and the family alone, the number of standard texts which confront the diligent student is already formidable.

This volume, however, is not for the student. It is described as "a book that the practitioner may well recommend to prospective brides and bridegrooms and their parents." It is intended, in short, to offer prescribed reading for young people on the eve of marriage.

If they can get through it at this busy period of their lives and assimilate its contents, there will be little in the way of further factual information that they will need to seek. With this volume at hand, to be consulted whenever the necessity arises, they should for the remainder of their married life be provisioned against the perils of ignorance. The book contains some thirty-eight chapters, contributed by a corresponding number of authors, all of whom are experts in their particular fields, and many of whom have already written big books of their own. Three only out of the whole galaxy are not in possession of doctors' degrees in one faculty or another.

The themes discussed, as might be expected, cover a very wide range. The subtitle describes the book as "an authoritative guide to problems related to marriage from the beginning of sexual attraction to matrimony and the successful rearing of a family." It is divided into five parts, dealing respectively with preparation for marriage; the marriage; conception; pregnancy and childbirth; the child in the family; and social problems of sex and marriage.

The work of this gifted and competent team has been co-ordinated by two editors of the very first rank. Dr. Fishbein, a medical man, is editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Dr. Burgess is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Sociology in the University of Chicago, and has contributed several outstanding volumes of his own to the literature on marriage and the family. In short, this ambitious volume culls the best material which American scholarship and clinical experience can produce on the subject, and presents it to the ordinary citizen of the United States.

It is impossible, within the limits of space available to a reviewer, to comment usefully upon this enormous mass of heterogeneous material. To single out the contribution of a few writers would seem to be unfair to the others. All the material has obviously been carefully prepared. The lack of cohesion, inseparable from the symposium, makes continuous "straight" reading of the book somewhat distracting. Although every effort

has been made to secure continuity, there is an inevitable tendency on the part of some writers to digress from the subjects allocated to them and air their pet theories about issues dealt with elsewhere by another writer : and, naturally enough, the two are not always of one mind. In addition, the categorization of subjects seems at one or two points a little unfortunate. An eminently sensible chapter on masturbation appears in the section entitled "The Child in the Family," although only one page of it is concerned with self-stimulatory practices in childhood. Stranger still, the chapter on the climacteric is placed in the section on "Social Problems of Sex and Marriage."

It is probably best to regard the volume as an encyclopædia, a work of reference which, after first reading, can be referred to again and again by the married couple on specific issues upon which they require information. As such it should prove invaluable. There is a good index. But, strangely enough for an American work, there is no general bibliography at the end! Some of the individual authors append book lists to their chapters, varying both in length and in comprehensiveness. But there is nothing more than that to guide those who wish to do further reading.

One or two chapters deal with issues which are off the beaten track, though all the more welcome for that reason. For example, there are useful chapters on "Adopting a Child," on "Remarriage and the Stepchild," and on "How Behaviour Problems and Juvenile Delinquency Result from Inadequate Marital Adjustment."

Where appropriate, diagrammatic illustrations are used. A few are too "cluttered up" to be clearly intelligible to the ordinary person for whom the book is written ; but most are admirable. They are, however, printed on the same paper as the rest of the text. In a book of this size and cost, it seems a pity that the publishers did not go to the extra expense of producing coloured plates, which would have been a vast improvement.

Readers of this journal will be interested to know what the book has to say about eugenics. In point of fact, there is very little.

The word does not appear at all in the index of nearly thirty pages. There is no more than a passing reference to eugenic fitness in the chapter on the premarital physical examination. The main reference is in the chapter entitled "Heredity : Facts and Fallacies," where Dr. Warren Spencer says, "Haldane's work on human mutation rates indicates that a eugenic programme can never eliminate defective dominants, although their incidence could be brought down to that determined by mutation rates. . . . When we come to the elimination of defective recessive genes, sterilization or other methods of preventing reproduction of afflicted individuals has relatively little effect on the frequency of the recessive genes in the population. . . . From the purely personal point of view, individuals in family lines in which recessive abnormalities have appeared would do well by the prospective offspring not to marry blood relations."

Despite these defects, the book as a whole is an impressive piece of work, and stands in a class by itself. English readers unfamiliar with the magnitude and erudition of American works in this field could not choose a better introduction. Our American friends have evinced a teutonic diligence in the scientific study of marriage and the family. If the widespread collapse of home life in the U.S.A. can be averted by sound knowledge and accurate information, we may be sure that it will be averted.

DAVID R. MACE.

Groves, Ernest R. and Catherine.
Dynamic Mental Hygiene: With Special Emphasis on Family Counselling. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1946. Stackpole. Pp. 509. \$3.75.

THE name of Professor Ernest Groves is well known on both sides of the Atlantic. In the United States he was one of the pioneers of education for marriage and of marriage counselling. His recent death has deprived America of one of her greatest leaders in this field.